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Chairman Mr. Semakula Kiwanuka ..... (Uganda)

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Agenda item 86: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 86: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*) (A/54/670 and A/54/839; A/55/138-S/2000/693, A/55/305-S/2000/809, A/55/502 and A/55/507 and Add.1)

1. **Mr. Sobko** (Ukraine) said that since the previous year's deliberations a number of significant events had taken place in the field of the United Nations peacekeeping activities. The first was the release and adoption of a series of United Nations documents aimed at improving the practice and existing mechanism of United Nations peacekeeping operations. In that connection, two historically significant documents were worthy of mention — the United Nations Millennium Declaration and Security Council resolution 1318 (2000). His delegation also welcomed the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (the Brahimi report) and two follow-up reports by the Secretary-General on implementation and resource requirements. Over the past period, the trend towards growth in the number of complex and multifaceted United Nations peacekeeping operations had continued, which gave reason to believe that a turning point in the history of those operations had been reached

2. Conflict prevention was one of the most promising instruments in the United Nations peacekeeping arsenal. In that connection, the importance of the immediate implementation of the proposal by the President of Ukraine, Leonid Kuchma, regarding the development of a comprehensive United Nations strategy for conflict prevention based on the large-scale use of preventive diplomacy and peace-building should be noted. That idea was, to a large extent, consistent with the philosophy reflected in the report of the Secretary-General to the Millennium Assembly. In that connection, the active use of United Nations conflict prevention operations was a promising idea, and the establishment of regional conflict prevention centres would, in Ukraine's view, constitute a practical step towards the development of such a strategy for the United Nations.

3. His delegation fully endorsed the view that the Security Council should issue clearly defined, credible and achievable mandates for peacekeeping operations. Such mandates should provide the basis for clear rules of engagement for the United Nations peacekeeping forces. The system of consultations between the Security Council, the Secretariat and the troop contributors should be improved. The consultations should take place at all stages of the peacekeeping operations, especially in the case of a rapid deterioration in the security situation, and could and should be convened at the request of the troop contributors. In that regard, the practice recently introduced of holding consultations between the Security Council and troop contributors through private meetings would be useful.

4. In view of the increased role of civilian police in current peacekeeping operations, he emphasized the need to strengthen civilian police reserves. The Panel's recommendations on establishing a national pool of civilian police officers who were ready for rapid deployment to United Nations peace operations and drawing up a revolving on-call list of approximately 100 police officers, in the context of the United Nations standby arrangements system, should be supported. Furthermore, the civilian police unit should be removed from the military reporting chain in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

5. Ukraine strongly condemned any acts of violence against peacekeeping and humanitarian personnel and remained deeply convinced that the top priority of any peacekeeping operation or mission must be to ensure an adequate level of security and safety for personnel. In that regard, he noted that the report of the Secretary-General on the safety and security of United Nations personnel (A/55/494) did not provide the necessary analysis of the security of military personnel. The report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations also paid insufficient attention to that issue.

6. Since 1992, more than 12,000 representatives of Ukraine had participated in 20 past and ongoing United Nations peacekeeping operations and missions. Ukraine was currently participating in six United Nations peacekeeping operations. Recognizing fully its additional responsibility as a member of the United Nations Security Council, Ukraine had increased its contribution in military and civilian personnel to newly established or ongoing peacekeeping operations by a factor of 20, and it reaffirmed its determination to contribute further by practical means to the peacekeeping efforts of the United Nations.

7. **Mr. Yap** (Singapore) said that the recent record of the Organization in the area of peacekeeping had been less than satisfactory. Currently, the important question was whether Member States had sufficient political will and courage to enhance what was probably the most important tool at their disposal, a tool that would enable them to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. The Brahimi report had already received support not only from the Secretary-General, but also in the various declarations of the Millennium Summit, the high-level meeting of the Security Council and the meeting of Heads of State of the permanent members of the Security Council in September 2000. In order to ensure that major United Nations peacekeeping blunders did not recur, it was necessary to address in earnest the shortcomings identified and take decisions on the questions raised in the report related to their improvement.

8. First, the Security Council must improve its working methods and must provide clear, credible and achievable mandates for peacekeeping operations. Moreover, it must ascertain from the outset that the right conditions existed and that sufficient resources were available for the fulfilment of a peacekeeping mission. In that regard, the Council should receive briefings from the Military Adviser and the mission Force Commander and from the Civilian Police Adviser and the Civilian Police Commissioner. The Council should also hold more in-depth consultations with the Secretariat and the troop-contributing countries. If the right conditions did not exist for the conduct of a peacekeeping operation, the Council must be ready to reject it.

9. As for the Secretariat, clearly, the work of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations needed to be revamped. Concrete proposals on restructuring and increasing the staff of the Department should be considered vigorously and expeditiously, in order to strengthen its capacity to plan, mount and manage United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Department must tell the Security Council what it needed to know, and not what it wanted to hear, and provide comprehensive, timely and accurate information to the Security Council and troop-contributing countries. The Department must hold regular consultations with troop-contributing countries. The General Assembly must approve the critical proposals on staff increases and restructuring as soon as possible, even if it meant having to suspend the zero nominal growth policy for the regular budget.

10. For their part, Member States must demonstrate the political will to provide the United Nations with necessary financial and physical resources. The success of any peacekeeping operation depended on the rapid and effective deployment of required peacekeeping forces, which in turn would be ensured through the rapid contribution of troop contingents and equipment. It was therefore necessary to enhance United Nations rapid deployment capability by giving new life to the standby arrangements system and quick approval for such initiatives as "on-call" lists for military and civilian police officers. Unfortunately, the developed countries had become very selective in their approach to peacekeeping operations, preferring to provide training and equipment for soldiers to be deployed by developing countries. Compounding that situation, the United Nations did not reimburse the expenses of developing troop contributors because some Member States did not pay their peacekeeping assessments in full and on time. It should be noted that the permanent members of the Security Council bore special responsibility to meet their financial obligations, since in reality, they made most of the decisions in the Council.

11. Within its limited resources and the constraints of a small population and armed forces made up of conscripts, Singapore was firmly committed to United Nations peacekeeping and would continue to contribute to peacekeeping efforts to the best of its ability. Peacekeeping was a vital tool of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security. The Brahimi report contained many sound ideas for the strengthening of the Organization's peacekeeping activities, and it would be a tremendous waste to squander them.

12. **Mr. Dausa Cespedes** (Cuba) said that peacekeeping operations remained a valuable tool for the United Nations to fulfil its obligations in the area of the maintenance of international peace and security.

13. Although in recent years peacekeeping operations had become quite complex, Cuba continued to believe in strict observance of such principles of international law as respect for State sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence, which were the cornerstone of peacekeeping activities. In addition, various principles of peacekeeping, including consent of the

parties, impartiality, non-use of force except in self-defence and clear mandates, objectives and command structures, remained valid and should be strictly observed. At a time when attempts were being made to introduce the notion of humanitarian intervention, in line with the hegemonic interests of certain Powers, to undermine the principles of sovereignty and non-intervention in internal affairs, and to portray the Charter of the United Nations as some sort of obsolete document, upholding those fundamental principles was of the greatest importance.

14. His delegation shared the view that the Organization required a dynamic mechanism for the rapid deployment of field operations. In its opinion, the appropriate instrument was a standby arrangement system. Furthermore, experience had shown that selection of personnel for peacekeeping operations should be fully transparent and in strict compliance with Articles 100 and 101 of the Charter.

15. His delegation wished to reiterate its concern over delays in reimbursing the contributors of troops and equipment, especially the developing countries. Borrowing from the peacekeeping operations budget to meet the ordinary needs of the Organization was a pernicious practice which only exacerbated delays in reimbursement.

16. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations was a competent body mandated to discuss the entire gamut of issues connected with those operations, and it was thus vital to strive assiduously to enhance its methods of work. Its work must be strengthened and activated, and its mandate still contained untapped reserves. Regrettably, the members of the Committee were sometimes caught up in fruitless debate over mandates and decisions which might be adopted by the Security Council and which they were not in a position to influence.

17. The opinions and recommendations of the Special Committee did not always receive support within the Security Council, owing to the non-democratic practices of the latter. Consequently, reform of the Security Council could considerably increase the relevance of the Committee's work. Moreover, the decisions of the Special Committee were often ignored outright, and one sometimes had the impression that certain aspects of peacekeeping operations were discussed in far greater detail in the Fifth Committee than in the Special Committee.

18. When the need to examine all aspects of peacekeeping operations in a multifaceted manner was discussed, the root causes of conflicts and measures for their elimination should not be forgotten. Peacekeeping operations should not be viewed as a tool for settling conflicts. Just and durable solutions would not be found until the real causes of conflicts were revealed, namely poverty, hunger, violence and despair. Unless the international community promoted the social and economic development of "third-world" countries, it would not be able to extricate itself from the vicious circle of new and emerging conflicts and new peace-building operations, entailing massive human and material losses.

19. The Special Committee had been informed of the new proposals outlining reforms of the Organization's activities, including in the field of peace-building. It was a question of conceptual and practical means of resolving key problems in such areas as personnel, strategic management, decision-making, rapid deployment, operational planning and data application. It was his delegation's view that United Nations activities in the field of peace and security could and should be improved. Moreover, radical reforms should be carried out in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. As the experience of past years had revealed, many decisions on peace operations had been taken in an unsystematic and untimely manner, only exacerbating the chaos in conflict zones and undermining the authority of the Organization. However, peace-building operations would hardly prove effective if a potential for broad interpretation and adjustment of mandates were revealed during the planning process, and if the need for the Security Council to strictly meet its main obligation as foreseen by the Charter was not recognized.

20. The imposition of a manufactured peace was no substitute for peacekeeping. The United Nations should be an instrument for peacemaking, not a passive forum advocating ready-made blueprints for peace, democracy and human rights which caused it to act in the hegemonic interests of a small group of Member States. Peace could not be built or strengthened on the basis of such criteria as cost-benefit. It was thus a question of putting United Nations resources at the service of the legitimate interests of the overwhelming majority of Member States and at the disposal of those peoples in need of the Organization's genuine assistance to establish a just and durable peace.

21. He wondered whether there was really a need to create new managerial posts within the Department if the Organization failed to recognize the importance of tackling the political, social, economic and cultural roots of conflicts; or to invent the concept of "peace operations" if some Powers were not prepared to participate effectively and impartially in peacekeeping operations. Why create new organizational structures if some countries persisted in withholding their contributions to the special budget, merely stipulating new conditions for such payments to be made? Why be concerned with the rapid deployment of peacekeeping operations if, as a result of the adoption of double standards in the work of the Security Council, there continued to be privileged, "forgotten" and "taboo" areas? Finally, he wondered whether there was any point in according still greater powers to the Security Council and to the mechanisms of the main bodies if the principle of equitable geographical distribution remained a dead letter. Although the recently discussed reports generated more questions than answers, his delegation sincerely hoped to receive answers to those questions during the course of constructive and transparent discussions within the Committee.

22. **Mr. Al-Adsani** (Kuwait) said that peacekeeping operations played a special role in easing tensions and resolving conflicts, reflecting the desire of the international community to achieve collective security. Meanwhile, a number of burning questions remained unresolved, requiring special attention. Firstly, it was vital to provide a clearly defined mandate and objectives, structures and directions for all peacekeeping operations. Secondly, all Member States should fulfil their obligations under Article 17 of the Charter, taking into account the special responsibility of the permanent members of the Security Council. Thirdly, consultations between the Security Council and troop contributors should be held at all stages of operations. Furthermore, it was vital to strengthen the role of the United Nations in respect of early warning and preventive diplomacy. Lastly, it was also vital to examine fully all staff-training requirements.

23. His delegation welcomed the increase in numbers of troops under standby arrangements, which translated into the strengthened capacity of the Organization to respond to emergency situations. As to the Brahimi report, it hoped that the Panel's recommendations would be implemented, in the interests of reinforcing peacekeeping operations.

24. The United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) had been active in Kuwait since 1991, monitoring compliance with the ceasefire and preventing violations in the demilitarized zone, in accordance with the resolutions of the Security Council. From time to time, however, Iraq threw down the gauntlet to the international community, creating tension and destabilizing the situation in the region, which raised doubts as to its peaceful intentions. In the light of those actions by Iraq, Kuwait had sent a letter to the Security Council in October 2000 requesting that the necessary measures should be taken to prevent the Iraqi provocation and ensure compliance by Iraq with the resolutions of the Security Council. Taking into account that, as stated in the report of the Secretary-General (S/2000/914), there continued to be no UNIKOM flights over the Iraqi side of the demilitarized zone because of threats by the Iraqi authorities, his delegation wished to draw the Secretariat's attention to the need to ensure that all sides fulfilled their obligations and guaranteed the security of mission personnel.

25. Kuwait, which attached great importance to UNIKOM activities, had since 1993 contributed one third of the Mission's budget, as well as paying its assessed contributions to other peacekeeping operations. Kuwait noted with satisfaction the efforts of all personnel of peacekeeping operations and would do everything within its power to ensure their security. Lastly, his delegation supported the conclusions and recommendations of the Special Committee.

26. **Mr. Ling** (Belarus), endorsing the statement made by the representative of Jordan on behalf of the countries of the Non-Aligned Movement, said that the review of the question of peacekeeping operations was one of the most important elements of the work of the Fourth Committee. As had been stated at the Millennium Summit, there was a need for qualitative reform of the Organization's peacekeeping activities in the twenty-first century.

27. His delegation noted with satisfaction the efforts of the Brahimi Panel to analyse the state of the current peacekeeping operations and to outline specific measures to make them more effective. The establishment of trilateral cooperation among the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Secretariat in seeking optimum solutions for the strengthening of the Organization's capacity for peacekeeping — including preventive measures,

peacekeeping and peacemaking — was assuming particular importance at the current time.

28. His delegation was convinced that the realization of the idea of instituting a mechanism for consultations between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop- and equipment-contributing countries would also open the way to the development of realistic and well thought-out mandates for peacekeeping missions.

29. Unless close attention was paid on a continuous basis to the problems relating to the security of peacekeeping personnel, it would be extremely difficult to find a solution to the protracted staffing crisis in peacekeeping operations. The development of a comprehensive plan for ensuring security of United Nations staff was particularly important in that regard.

30. The idea put forward in the Brahimi report that there should be fairly strict rules of engagement seemed quite convincing at first glance. However, such an approach must not affect in any way the fundamental principles of peacekeeping: consent of the local parties, impartiality and use of force only in self-defence.

31. His Government had decided to expand Belarus's participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations. The selection of candidates for deployment as civilian police was nearing completion, the issue of the training of groups of military observers for peace missions was being addressed, and the possibility of establishing a national training centre to prepare specialists for participation in peacekeeping operations was being studied.

32. Belarus, which was striving determinedly and consistently to fulfil its obligations in respect of the financing of peacekeeping operations, intended to pay approximately $2.5 million to the peacekeeping budget by the end of the year and was ready to lend further constructive assistance to United Nations peacekeeping activities.

33. **Ms. Moglia** (Argentina) said that her delegation concurred with the views expressed by the representative of Colombia on behalf of the Rio Group. She believed that, today, the time had come to strengthen the peacekeeping system. Argentina's experience of participating in peacekeeping activities, acquired over 42 years, had helped it to understand and share in the international community's interest in the consolidation of that system.

34. The fact that the Brahimi report had been positively received by heads of State and Government during the Millennium Summit attested to a general recognition of the importance of United Nations peacekeeping activities and of the need to take measures to address their existing shortcomings. Her delegation welcomed the recommendations of the Panel of Experts, which it regarded as an appropriate basis for the strengthening of the Organization's capacity in the areas of conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacemaking. The Brahimi report had identified the main problems facing the Organization in the field of peacekeeping, and Member States must study the solutions proposed. As her delegation had stated in the Security Council, there was a need to take advantage of the current political moment in order to implement the recommendations contained in that report. Success in that endeavour would depend on the political will of Member States, and, in particular, on their readiness to provide the Organization with the necessary human and financial resources, without which the United Nations would be unable to carry out any of the main tasks set out in the Charter. Proceeding from that conviction, her delegation was following closely the implementation of some of those recommendations, both in the Security Council and in the Special Committee, and it wished to reiterate its support for the Committee's activities.

35. It must be noted that the commitment of Member States to peacekeeping activities meant not only the provision of resources, but also a willingness to take the risks associated with peacekeeping missions. In that connection, her delegation approved all the initiatives aimed at improving the system of consultations between the Secretariat, the Security Council and troop-contributing countries.

36. The conduct of peacekeeping operations was a collective duty of all Member States, but the primary responsibility for their financing lay with the permanent members of the Security Council. As far as one could judge, the proposed reforms would require an increase in the Organization's budget; however, the financial burden on certain developing countries could not be increased any further. The competent organs of the General Assembly must therefore consider carefully all requests for additional funds.

37. Argentina, which provided more troops for peacekeeping operations than all the remaining Latin American countries, had an interest in improved

security for the personnel of peacekeeping missions, who were working in ever more dangerous conditions. The Special Committee had recognized that the protection and security of personnel were an integral part of the planning and implementation of peacekeeping operations, and that it was necessary to develop an overall plan for ensuring security prior to the deployment of each individual operation.

38. Lastly, she affirmed Argentina's commitment to peacekeeping activities and its readiness to work with the Special Committee on the reform of the peacekeeping system, a reform which must strengthen the Organization's authority and increase the legitimacy of its activities in that most important sphere.

39. **Mr. Tekaya** (Tunisia) said that the debate on the question of peacekeeping operations was of particular interest following the issuance of the reports on Srebrenica and the genocide in Rwanda and the Brahimi report. Those reports served as a starting point in the search for ways to meet the needs of peacekeeping operations and fill in the lacunae in the current system.

40. Tunisia had participated in peacekeeping operations since the 1960s, in the belief that they were an important tool for the maintenance of international peace and security. At the same time, peacekeeping must not preclude endeavours to find definitive solutions to conflicts and to eliminate their root causes.

41. Tunisia concurred with the view that strengthening the capacity of the United Nations for peacekeeping required not only political will on the part of Member States, but also changes in terms of both structure and management, as well as the necessary resources. The issue of troop contingents and resources remained vital for the entire process. Providing them was the collective duty of all States, particularly those with greater means and capacity.

42. The Organization's ability to reimburse States that contributed troops and equipment continued to be limited by financial difficulties. In order to solve that problem, Member States must pay their contributions on time and without conditions.

43. Lastly, he expressed the hope that, with the initiation of the debate on the question of peacekeeping operations, the means would be found to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations for the maintenance and consolidation of international peace and security.

44. **Mr. Hughes** (New Zealand) expressed support for the recommendations contained in the Brahimi report, and welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of those recommendations. His delegation, which supported an increase in the level of resources for the funding of United Nations peacekeeping activities, also subscribed fully to the view that there must be no adverse impact on financing for development.

45. New Zealand's participation in various peacekeeping operations had underlined the need for contingency preparedness and advance planning, a point which had been reflected in the recommendations of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations and in the Secretary-General's proposal concerning training in situ for mission staff. The Panel's recommendation on equitable geographical and gender distribution in selecting mission leaders and the steps proposed by the Secretary-General to improve the process of selecting senior managers also merited support. His delegation welcomed the recent report by the Secretary-General on practical measures to strengthen security in the field and looked forward to his proposals on the possibility of broadening the scope of the protection offered under the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel.

46. The Brahimi report stated that, in comparison with other countries, the five permanent members of the Security Council were currently contributing far fewer troops to United Nations-led operations, although it recognized that four of the five had contributed sizeable forces to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)-led operations in Bosnia and Kosovo. As for New Zealand, 31 per cent of its army was currently committed to United Nations-led operations. New Zealand's military personnel were serving in East Timor, the former Yugoslavia, the Middle East and Sierra Leone. In addition, they were serving in the Peace Monitoring Group in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, and a contingent would shortly be deployed to serve in the international peace monitoring team for Solomon Islands.

47. His delegation supported the practice recently introduced by the Security Council of holding closed meetings with troop-contributing countries, in the

belief that they could help to increase the effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

48. The situation with respect to reimbursement gave cause for serious concern, since delays made it extremely difficult for smaller troop contributors to participate. The fact that such delays were caused by the failure of some Member States to pay their dues was intolerable. He reiterated in that connection his call to those Member States to pay their contributions on time, in full and without conditions.

49. **Mr. Ahmad** (Pakistan) said that his delegation wished to align itself with the statement made by the representative of Jordan on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. Pakistan was one of the oldest, largest and most consistent contributors to United Nations peacekeeping operations. Fifty-one Pakistanis had died in the service of peace. His delegation believed that the goals of peacekeeping should be not only to separate the warring factions, but also to identify the root causes of conflicts and to facilitate their resolution. Peacekeeping operations must have a clear direction, a precise mandate, an effective command and control structure and clearly defined and uniform rules of engagement. Once a peacekeeping operation was established, it must not be subject to restrictions or arbitrarily imposed "sunset clauses". Before winding up an operation, the United Nations must make sure that the conflict had been resolved.

50. In recent years, the conceptual and operational aspects of peacekeeping operations had gone through phenomenal changes. The Brahimi report dealt with some of the major questions facing the international community in that area. His delegation considered, however, that some issues had not been properly addressed in the report. One of the main purposes of the United Nations was the maintenance of international peace and security, into which all the constituent elements, namely, peacekeeping, conflict prevention, dispute settlement and peace-building, must be integrated. The Brahimi Panel had not elaborated adequately on that issue.

51. In tandem with peacekeeping, due emphasis should be placed on conflict prevention. In that regard, his delegation supported the proposal contained in the report concerning frequent recourse to fact-finding missions. The root causes of conflicts must be addressed on a case-by-case basis, and the panacea approach avoided. Particular attention must be paid to settling those disputes which posed a serious threat to international peace and security. One example was the protracted conflict over the illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir by India and the denial to the people of that territory of their right to determine their own future.

52. The mechanism for conflict prevention was established in the preamble to the Charter of the United Nations and in its Article 33. The Security Council must fulfil its obligations in that regard. Regrettably, instead of addressing priority areas, the Council focused on peripheral issues. Efforts were being made to broaden the scope of its activities by including human-rights, humanitarian-law, socio-economic and development issues, even though such issues clearly fell within the competence of the General Assembly and its various bodies. That dangerous trend must be curtailed, since it might otherwise jeopardize the United Nations system based on equitable distribution of responsibilities.

53. His delegation wished to stress that peace and development were indivisible. The international community must revitalize its efforts and devote its resources to the economic development of developing countries in order to promote international peace and to prevent conflicts.

54. The Brahimi report quite rightly highlighted the need for the United Nations to significantly increase its capacity to deploy new field operations rapidly and effectively. The failures of the United Nations in that regard were due to several factors, including a lack of determination on the part of members of the Security Council, political bias, and the inability of certain sections of the Secretariat to respond in a timely manner to a crisis situation and their lack of preparedness in allocating resources and personnel. His delegation wished to stress the need for a uniform, timely and effective response to crisis situations, irrespective of the geographical factor.

55. The Brahimi report emphasized the role of one or more regional Powers in ensuring the success of peacekeeping operations. It was the view of his delegation that the role of regional Powers and organizations in the prevention of armed conflicts could and should be restricted. All actions by regional organizations must be consonant with Chapter VIII of the Charter. Each time the Security Council ignored a

conflict and left others to resolve it, its authority was undermined.

56. Another important element was selectivity in the implementation of Security Council resolutions. Such an attitude raised doubts over the neutrality of that body. All resolutions must be considered equally important and should be implemented without any exceptions or discrimination.

57. The current arrangement for consultations between troop-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat was unsatisfactory, as noted by all during the recent crisis in Sierra Leone and highlighted in the Brahimi report. In that connection, his delegation had proposed the creation of a mission-specific core group of troop-contributing countries which, after the establishment of a mission, would actively consult with the Security Council and Secretariat on all operational issues arising in connection with that mission. The Charter contained provisions concerning such consultations. That proposal was geared not towards supplanting the Charter role of the Security Council but towards ensuring greater coordination between the Security Council and troop-contributors, on the one hand, and troop contributors and the Secretariat, on the other. The objective was to achieve unity of purpose.

58. In discussing the reform of the peacekeeping capacity of the United Nations, it was important to realize that the reform of the Security Council was completely separate and that Member States should not confuse the two issues by seeking a privileged position on the Council for troop-contributing countries in view of such countries' operational requirements. The goal should merely be to ensure closer cooperation.

59. One of the major obstacles to the timely and effective deployment of peacekeeping missions was the non-payment of assessed contributions. Regrettably, the Brahimi Panel had not dealt with that issue.

60. Regarding organizational issues, effective management was the key to strengthening the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. It was the view of his delegation that the Department was characterized by insufficient activity, failure to observe established procedures, insufficient accountability and responsibility, irregularities in staff selection, redundant posts, ambiguous chains of command and the absence of representatives of major troop-contributing countries in important posts both at Headquarters and in the field. In that connection, his delegation strongly disagreed that it was essential to increase the number of staff in the Department. Initially, there was a need for internal reform; only then would it be possible to determine whether there were additional requirements. His delegation considered the request concerning the establishment in the Department of yet another post of Assistant Secretary-General and the upgrading of the post of Chief of the Civil Police Unit from D-1 to D-2 to be unjustified.

61. His delegation recognized the need to develop a coherent approach towards information analysis and dissemination. However, the Secretariat's proposal was unacceptable in its current form. In his delegation's view, the Department of Political Affairs was perfectly capable of carrying out its envisaged functions.

62. Pakistan supported the concept of the system of stand-by agreements. However, the system in its current form failed to fully exploit its potential. The United Nations should focus on obtaining the right expertise at the right time and leave the maintenance of rosters to Member States. The scope of the system should be widened to include military and civilian personnel, civilian specialists, senior mission leaders and formed military and police units. His delegation supported the concept of integrated mission task forces and considered that, if wisely implemented, it could streamline and enhance the effectiveness of the planning process.

63. In restructuring the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, it was important to bear in mind the need to eliminate obsolete units and to divert resources to where they were needed. Re-appropriation of existing personnel and resources, rather than new personnel and resources, were what was required.

64. His delegation considered good logistics to be the key to the rapid deployment of peacekeeping missions. All United Nations efforts towards that goal would receive its full support.

65. All the above-mentioned deficiencies should be carefully scrutinized by Member States with a view to finding a solution that enhanced and qualitatively improved United Nations capability to carry out peacekeeping operations.

66. In conclusion, his delegation reiterated its continued commitment to United Nations peacekeeping efforts. Pakistan itself hosted one of the oldest

peacekeeping operations — the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP). Unfortunately, despite the continued presence of UNMOGIP, peace in South Asia remained fragile. The root cause of the conflict between Pakistan and India was the issue of Jammu and Kashmir. The international community should extend a helping hand to enable the people of Jammu and Kashmir to exercise their right to self-determination as pledged to them by the Security Council, as well as by India and Pakistan. A just resolution of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with Security Council resolutions was essential for the credibility of the commitment of the United Nations to maintaining international peace and security.

The meeting rose at noon.